GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1607
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
FACILITIES TO BEEDI WORKERS
Ansari Shri Furkan

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lakhs of beedi workers working in the country particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal are deprived of the basic amenities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper housing, health care, potable drinking water supply and other basic amenities to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing welfare schemes for the beedi workers and their family members through out the country including Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. The schemes include among other things running of hospitals and dispensaries, scholarships to school/college going children, financial assistance for construction of houses, reimbursement of cost of treatment of major/minor surgeries, etc. There are 16 Nos. of Static-cum-Mobile Medical Units located in various parts of West Bengal and one 50-bedded Central Hospital at Dhuliyan, Distt. Murshidabad for rendering free treatment to the Beedi Workers and their family members. In Karma Region, 21 nos. of dispensaries and one 100 bedded General Hospital and one 50 bedded T.B. Hospital are running in different parts of Bihar and Jharkhand States. For specialized treatment like, heart, kidney, cancer diseases, patients are referred to recognized speciality hospitals and the cost of trea tment is reimbursed upto certain limit. The number of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred during last three years under Health Education & Housing for beedi workers under above Welfare Fund is as follows:-

(Bihar and Jharkhand States)

(Expenditure figures are in Rs. In lakh)

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
HEALTH	Expenditure	285.30	345.54	391.24
	Beneficiaries	248088	341500	362852
EDUCATION	Expenditure	59.76	124.17	134.84
	Beneficiaries	7837	20915	22484
HOUSING	Expenditure	6.71	9.98	3.31

(West Bengal)

(Expenditure figures are in Rs. In Lakh)

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
HEALTH	Expenditure	66.35	94.72	159.48
	Beneficiaries	398696	442977	498082
EDUCATION	Expenditure	382.10	451.48	500.67
	Beneficiaries	44196	52862	57878
HOUSING	Expenditure	73.68	99.87	119.27